LEGENDA CERITA RAKYAT
REPUBLIK RAKYAT CHINA

LEGENDA CHINA - KISAH EMPAT NAGA YANG BAIK HATI

Dahulu kala, tidak ada sungai dan danau di bumi, hanya ada Laut Timur, yang ditinggali oleh empat naga: Naga Panjang, Naga Kuning, Naga Hitam dan Naga Mutiara.
Suatu hari empat naga terbang dari laut menuju ke langit. Mereka bermain-main di antara awan, melompat-lompat dan menyelam, juga bermain di petak umpet.
"Hey, kawan-kawan! Kemarilah cepat!" Naga Mutiara berteriak dengan tiba-tiba.
"Ada apa?" tanya tiga naga lainnya, melihat ke bawah ke arah mana Naga Mutiara menunjuk.
Di bumi mereka melihat banyak orang meletakkan buah-buahan dan kue, dan membakar dupa. Mereka sedang berdoa! Seorang wanita berambut putih, membawa anak yang kurus di punggungnya, berlutut di tanah sambil bergumam, "Duhai Langit, tolong kirimkan hujan secepatnya, kami membutuhkan beras untuk makan anak-anak kami."
Saat itu sudah lama sekali tidak ada hujan. Tanaman layu, rumput berubah kuning dan tanah-tanah retak di bawah terik matahari.
"Kasihan sekali orang-orang ini!" kata Naga Kuning. "Dan mereka akan mati jika tidak hujan segera."
Sang Naga Panjang mengangguk. Kemudian ia menyarankan, "Mari kita pergi dan memohon Kaisar Langit agar bersedia menurunkan hujan."
Sang Naga Panjang lantas mendahului kawan-kawannya melesat, diikuti oleh yang lain dan terbang menuju Istana Surga. Sebagai yang harus bertanggung jawab atas semua urusan di surga, di bumi dan di laut, Kaisar Langit sangatlah kuat. Dia tak tampak senang melihat para naga bergegas masuk.
"Kenapa kalian datang ke sini bukannya tinggal di laut seperti yang diperintahkan padamu?"
Sang Naga Panjang melangkah maju dan berkata, "Tanaman di bumi banyak yang layu dan mati, Yang Mulia. Atas nama penduduk bumi, saya mohon Anda untuk mengirim hujan turun. Sekarang juga!"
"Baiklah. Kalian pergilah. Aku akan mengirimkan hujan besok." Kaisar Langit pura-pura setuju sambil mendengarkan kembali lagu-lagu dari para peri.
Empat naga menjawab, "Terima kasih, Yang Mulia!" Empat naga pergi dengan gembira. Tapi sepuluh hari berlalu, tak tampak setetes pun hujan turun. Orang-orang bahkan lebih menderita. Tak ada makanan yang tersisa lagi. Mereka makan apa pun yang ditemui, akar rumput, kulit kayu dan sebagainya.

Para Naga melihat semua ini, dan merasa sangat sedih. Mereka tahu Kaisar Langit hanya peduli tentang kesenangan, dan tidak pernah merasa kasihan pada orang-orang ini. Mereka merasa harus menolong orang-orang di bumi yang keadaannya semakin mengenaskan. Tapi bagaimana?
Melihat laut yang luas, Naga Panjang punya ide.
"Dengar, ada banyak air di laut di mana kita tinggal. Kita bisa memindahkan air itu ke awan-awan di langit. Lalu air akan menjadi seperti tetes hujan dan turun untuk menyelamatkan rakyat dan tanaman mereka," kata Si Naga Panjang.
"Ide yang bagus!" kata yang lain.
"Tapi," kata Si Naga Panjang, "Kita bisa dihukum jika Kaisar Langit tahu tentang hal ini."
"Aku akan melakukan apa saja untuk menyelamatkan orang-orang," kata Naga Kuning tegas.
"Kalau begitu mari kita mulai," kata Si Naga Panjang.
Si Naga Hitam dan Naga Mutiara tidak mau kalah dan segera bergabung. Mereka terbang ke laut, meraup air di mulut mereka, dan kemudian terbang kembali ke langit, di mana air dipindahkan ke awan. Empat naga terbang bolak-balik, menyebabkan langit gelap di sekitarnya. Tak lama air laut menjadi hujan lebat turun dari langit. "Hujan! Hujan!! Kita selamat!" orang-orang menangis dan melompat dengan sukacita.
Di tanah, batang gandum dan batang sorgum kembali tegak. Rumput-rumput kembali hijau. Padi di sawah kembali berlimpah air.

Para dewa laut tahu akan peristiwa ini dan melaporkannya kepada Kaisar Langit.
"Beraninya empat naga membuat hujan tanpa izinku!" kata Kaisar Langit.
Kaisar Langit marah, dan memerintahkan para jenderal surgawi dan pasukan mereka untuk menangkap empat naga. Jauh kalah dalam jumlah, keempat naga tidak mampu melawan, dan mereka segera ditangkap dan dibawa kembali ke istana surgawi. "Bawa dan tempatkan mereka di dalam masing empat gunung dan jangan biarkan mereka lolos!" Kaisar Langit memerintahkan Dewa Gunung.

Dewa Gunung menggunakan kekuatan sihir untuk menerbangkan empat gunung besar di bumi, dan menurunkannya di atas masing-masing naga. Namun para naga tidak pernah menyesali tindakan mereka. Bertekad untuk berbuat baik bagi orang-orang selamanya, mereka mengubah diri mereka

menjadi empat sungai, yang mengalir melewati pegunungan tinggi dan lembah, melintasi tanah dari barat ke timur dan akhirnya bermuara ke laut. Sehingga terbentuklah empat sungai besar Cina, yaitu :

- Heilongjian (Naga Hitam) di sebelah utara,
- Huanghe (Sungai Kuning) di pusat Cina,
- Changjiang (Yangtze, atau Sungai Panjang) jauh ke selatan, dan
- Zhujiang (Mutiara) jauh di selatan.

CERITA DALAM BAHASA INGGRIS :

Once upon a time, there were no rivers and lakes on earth, but only the Eastern Sea, in which lived four dragons: the Long Dragon, the Yellow Dragon, the Black Dragon and the Pearl Dragon. One day the four dragons flew from the sea into the sky. They soared and dived, playing at hide-and-seek in the clouds.

"Come over here quickly!" the Pearl Dragon cried out suddenly.
"What's up?" asked the other three, looking down in the direction where the Pearl Dragon pointed.

On the earth they saw many people putting out fruits and cakes, and burning incense sticks. They were praying! A white-haired woman, kneeling on the ground with a thin boy on her back, murmured, "Please send rain quickly, God of Heaven, to give our children rice to eat."
For there had been no rain for a long time. The crops withered, the grass turned yellow and fields cracked under the scorching sun.

"How poor the people are!" said the Yellow Dragon. "And they will die if it doesn't rain soon." The Long Dragon nodded. Then he suggested, "Let's go and beg the Jade Emperor for rain."
So saying, he leapt into the clouds. The others followed closely and flew towards the Heavenly Palace. Being in charge of all the affairs in heaven on earth and in the sea, the Jade Emperor was very powerful. He was not pleased to see the dragons rushing in.

"Why do you come here instead of staying in the sea and behaving yourselves?" The Long Dragon stepped forward and said, "The crops on earth are withering and dying, Your Majesty. I beg you to send rain down quickly!"

"All right. You go back first, I'll send some rain down tomorrow." The Jade Emperor pretended to agree while listening to the songs of the fairies. The four dragons responded, "Thanks, Your Majesty!"

The four dragons went happily back. But ten days passed, and not a drop of rain came down. The people suffered more, some eating bark, some grass roots, some forced to eat white clay when they ran out of bark and grass roots. Seeing all this, the four dragons felt very sorry, for they knew the Jade Emperor only cared about pleasure, and never took the people to heart. They could only rely on themselves to relieve the people of their miseries. But how to do it? Seeing the vast sea, the Long Dragon said that he had an idea.

"What is it? Out with it, quickly!" the other three demanded.
"Look, is there not plenty of water in the sea where we live? We should scoop it up and spray it towards the sky. The water will be like rain drops and come down to save the people and their crops," said Long Dragon.

"Good idea!" said the others as they clapped their hands.
"But," said the Long Dragon after thinking a bit, "we will be blamed if the Jade Emperor learns of this."

"I will do anything to save the people," the Yellow Dragon said resolutely.
"Then let's begin. We will never regret it," said Long Dragon.

The Black Dragon and the Pearl Dragon were not to be outdone. They flew to the sea, scooped up water in their mouths, and then flew back into the sky, where they sprayed the water out over the earth. The four dragons flew back and forth, making the sky dark all around. Before long the sea water became rain pouring down from the sky.

"It's raining! It's raining! The crops will be saved!" the people cried and leaped with joy. On the ground the wheat stalks raised their heads and the sorghum stalks straightened up. The god of the sea discovered these events and reported to the Jade Emperor.

"How dare the four dragons bring rain without my permission!" said the Jade Emperor. The Jade Emperor was enraged, and ordered the heavenly generals and their troops to arrest the four dragons. Being far outnumbered, the four dragons could not defend themselves, and they were soon arrested and brought back to the heavenly palace.

"Go and get four mountains to lay upon them so that they can never escape!" The Jade Emperor ordered the Mountain God.

The Mountain God used his magic power to make four mountains fly there, whistling in the wind from afar, and pressed them down upon the four dragons. Imprisoned as they were, they never regretted their actions. Determined to do good for the people forever, they turned themselves into four rivers, which flowed past high mountains and deep valleys, crossing the land from the west to the east and finally emptying into the sea. And so China's four great rivers were formed -- the Heilongjian (Black Dragon) in the far north, the Huanghe (Yellow River) in central China, the Changjiang (Yangtze, or Long River) farther south, and the Zhujiang (Pearl) in the very far south.

Sumber Cerita Bahasa Indonesia :

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